

**Navratna status for SCI**

3155. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request is pending with Government to grant the Navratna status to Shipping Corporation of India (SCI);

(b) whether Government feel that granting of this status would facilitate SCI to compete with the growing demand for fleet acquisition; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in order to consider the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Many areas of deficiency have been noticed in corporate governance of Shipping Corporation of India. (SCI) which need to be removed in the interest of efficiency and transparency. SCI is taking corrective measures to ensure that its internal governance system achieves a level of efficiency and transparency that a company should desirably achieve before Navratna status is bestowed on it. The progress of SCI towards these reforms is being monitored regularly.

**Retirement age of port employees**

3156. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of Message No. A38011/5/98-P.E. issued by the then Ministry of Surface Transport on 28th May, 1998;

(b) whether it is a fact that the retirement age of employees of major ports was raised from 58 to 60 years;

(c) what is the situation as on 1 st May, 2007 as far as retirement age is concerned; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the M.O.S.T letter No. PR-12016/42/2/ 2000-PE/1 dated 17th October, 2000 has created anomaly in his Ministry?